

Major Work Stoppages

Technical Note

Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and include worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppages."

Data for the number of workers involved and days of idleness include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

In the monthly tables, days idle during the reference period for any one stoppage is calculated by adding the number of days lost by each affected worker during the period from the beginning date through the ending date of the stoppage. In addition, days idle is shown as a total for

all stoppages in effect during the month. In the historical tables, cumulative figures for the days of idleness are shown for various reference periods. In addition, days idle is shown as a percent of estimated working time for all stoppages that occurred during the reference period. Total days idle is the sum of the days idle for all stoppages in effect during the reference period. Estimated working time is computed by multiplying total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period. (Total employment excludes private households, forestry, and fishery employees, and is taken from *Employment and Earnings* published by the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics.) The percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the total days of idleness for all stoppages occurring during the reference period by the estimated working time for all employees in the economy during that period.

Additional information

For more detailed data, contact the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 606-6282.

Table D-1. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-98¹**

| Period | Number of stoppages | | Workers involved | | Days idle | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | Beginning in period | In effect during period | Beginning in period (thousands) | In effect during period (thousands) | Number (thousands) | Percent of estimated working time ² |
| 1947 | 270 | - | 1,629 | - | 25,720 | (³) |
| 1948 | 245 | - | 1,435 | - | 26,127 | 0.22 |
| 1949 | 262 | - | 2,537 | - | 43,420 | .38 |
| 1950 | 424 | - | 1,698 | - | 30,390 | .26 |
| 1951 | 415 | - | 1,462 | - | 15,070 | .12 |
| 1952 | 470 | - | 2,746 | - | 48,820 | .38 |
| 1953 | 437 | - | 1,623 | - | 18,130 | .14 |
| 1954 | 265 | - | 1,075 | - | 16,630 | .13 |
| 1955 | 363 | - | 2,055 | - | 21,180 | .16 |
| 1956 | 287 | - | 1,370 | - | 26,840 | .20 |
| 1957 | 279 | - | 887 | - | 10,340 | .07 |
| 1958 | 332 | - | 1,587 | - | 17,900 | .13 |
| 1959 | 245 | - | 1,381 | - | 60,850 | .43 |
| 1960 | 222 | - | 896 | - | 13,260 | .09 |
| 1961 | 195 | - | 1,031 | - | 10,140 | .07 |
| 1962 | 211 | - | 793 | - | 11,760 | .08 |
| 1963 | 181 | - | 512 | - | 10,020 | .07 |
| 1964 | 246 | - | 1,183 | - | 16,220 | .11 |
| 1965 | 268 | - | 999 | - | 15,140 | .10 |
| 1966 | 321 | - | 1,300 | - | 16,000 | .10 |
| 1967 | 381 | - | 2,192 | - | 31,320 | .18 |
| 1968 | 392 | - | 1,855 | - | 35,367 | .20 |
| 1969 | 412 | - | 1,576 | - | 29,397 | .16 |
| 1970 | 381 | - | 2,468 | - | 52,761 | .29 |
| 1971 | 298 | - | 2,516 | - | 35,538 | .19 |
| 1972 | 250 | - | 975 | - | 16,764 | .09 |
| 1973 | 317 | - | 1,400 | - | 16,260 | .08 |
| 1974 | 424 | - | 1,796 | - | 31,809 | .16 |
| 1975 | 235 | - | 965 | - | 17,563 | .09 |
| 1976 | 231 | - | 1,519 | - | 23,962 | .12 |
| 1977 | 298 | - | 1,212 | - | 21,258 | .10 |
| 1978 | 219 | - | 1,006 | - | 23,774 | .11 |
| 1979 | 235 | - | 1,021 | - | 20,409 | .09 |
| 1980 | 187 | - | 795 | - | 20,844 | .09 |
| 1981 | 145 | - | 729 | - | 16,908 | .07 |
| 1982 | 96 | - | 656 | - | 9,061 | .04 |
| 1983 | 81 | - | 909 | - | 17,461 | .08 |
| 1984 | 62 | - | 376 | - | 8,499 | .04 |
| 1985 | 54 | - | 324 | - | 7,079 | .03 |
| 1986 | 69 | - | 533 | - | 11,861 | .05 |
| 1987 | 46 | - | 174 | - | 4,481 | .02 |
| 1988 | 40 | - | 118 | - | 4,381 | .02 |
| 1989 | 51 | - | 452 | - | 16,996 | .07 |
| 1990 | 44 | - | 185 | - | 5,926 | .02 |
| 1991 | 40 | - | 392 | - | 4,584 | .02 |
| 1992 | 35 | - | 364 | - | 3,989 | .01 |
| 1993 | 35 | - | 182 | - | 3,981 | .01 |
| 1994 | 45 | - | 322 | - | 5,020 | .02 |
| 1995 | 31 | - | 192 | - | 5,771 | .02 |
| 1996 | 37 | - | 273 | - | 4,889 | .02 |
| 1997 | 29 | - | 339 | - | 4,497 | .01 |
| 1997 Through July | 17 | 22 | 110.5 | 122.5 | 2,137.0 | .01 |
| 1998 Through July | 14 | 14 | 191.4 | 191.4 | 3,698.9 | .02 |

¹ The number of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

² Agricultural and government employees are included in the cal-

ulation of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

³ Data not available.

P = preliminary.

Table D-2. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, May 1998^p**

| Organizations involved and location ¹ | Beginning date | Ending date | Number of workers ² | Days of idleness during May |
|--|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Construction companies Central Iowa Carpenters | 5/1/98 | 5/13/98 | 1,800 | 16,200 |
| Wheland Foundry, Division of North American Royalties Chattanooga, TN Steelworkers | 5/2/98 | | 1,300 | 24,700 |
| Peterbilt Motors Company Madison, TN Automobile Workers | 5/3/98 | | 1,200 | 22,800 |
| Quad City Builders Association Inc. Rock Island, IL Carpenters | 5/21/98 | 5/28/98 | 1,800 | 9,000 |
| Stoppages beginning in May 4 | | | 6,100 | |
| Stoppages in effect in May 4 | | | 6,100 | 72,700 |

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p=preliminary.

Table D-3. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, June 1998^p**

| Organizations involved and location ¹ | Beginning date | Ending date | Number of workers ² | Days of idleness during June |
|---|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wheland Foundry, Division of North American Royalties Chattanooga, TN Steelworkers | 5/2/98 | 6/19/98 | 1,300 | 19,500 |
| Peterbilt Motors Company Madison, TN Automobile Workers | 5/3/98 | | 1,200 | 26,400 |
| Associated General Contractors, Michigan and Great Lakes Fabricators and Erectors Association Detroit, MI, area Iron Workers | 6/1/98 | 6/1/98 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Philadelphia, PA, area Transport Workers | 6/1/98 | | 4,200 | 92,400 |
| Michigan Road Builders Association Michigan Operating Engineers | 6/4/98 | 6/5/98 | 4,000 | 8,000 |
| General Motors Corporation Interstate Automobile Workers | 6/5/98 | | 152,200 ³ | 1,394,100 |
| Stoppages beginning in June 4 | | | 162,900 | |
| Stoppages in effect in June 6 | | | 165,400 | 1,542,900 |

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

³ Excludes workers in Canada and Mexico.

p=preliminary.

Table D-4. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, July 1998^p**

| Organizations involved and location ¹ | Beginning date | Ending date | Number of workers ² | Days of idleness during July |
|---|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Peterbilt Motors Company Madison, TN Automobile Workers | 5/3/98 | | 1,200 | 26,400 |
| Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Philadelphia, PA, area Transport Workers | 6/1/98 | 7/10/98 | 4,200 | 29,400 |
| General Motors Corporation Interstate Automobile Workers | 6/5/98 | 7/29/98 | 152,200 ³ | 1,918,900 |
| Lucent Technologies Inc. Columbus, OH Electrical Workers (IBEW) | 7/6/98 | 7/22/98 | 2,500 | 32,500 |
| Stoppages beginning in July 1 | | | 2,500 | |
| Stoppages in effect in July 4 | | | 160,100 | 2,007,200 |

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

³ Excludes workers in Canada and Mexico

p = preliminary.

Table D-4. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, October 1997^p

| Organizations involved and location ¹ | Beginning date | Ending date | Number of workers ² | Days of idleness during October |
|---|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kaiser Permanente Oregon and Southwest Washington Service Employees | 9/2/97 | 10/4/97 | 2,000 | 6,000 |
| CF & I Steel Company Pueblo, CO Steelworkers | 10/2/97 | | 1,000 | 20,000 |
| Stoppages beginning in October 1 | | | 1,000 | |
| Stoppages in effect in October 2 | | | 3,000 | 26,000 |

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p = preliminary.